

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A communication method comprising the steps of:

- 5 (a) downloading identifying information about each of a series of files from a storage facility to a processor;
- (b) placing the files in a priority order according to the identifying information and established rules;
- (c) downloading a first file in the priority;
- 10 (d) processing the file; and
- (e) transmitting the processed file to a remote location while remaining ones of the files are being downloaded.

15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of processing comprises the step of determining whether processing is complete.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the files are processed from a processing queue, and the queue is limited to a maximum size of N files.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein the steps of transmitting, processing, and downloading are accomplished substantially simultaneously.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of processing comprises,
compressing the file.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of placing the files
in a queue and wherein the queue is limited to a maximum size of N
files.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining
whether a queue is empty prior to beginning the step of processing.
8. A communication method comprising the steps of:
- (a) setting a number of files acceptable from each one of a plurality of
sources;
 - (b) receiving a new file from a source into a buffer;
 - (c) determining whether a total number of files in the buffer is equal to
the set number;
 - (d) if the total number of files in the buffer is equal to the set number,
compressing a file; and
 - (e) transmitting the compressed file.
9. The communication method described in claim 8, further comprising
the steps of:

- a. if the total number of files in the buffer is not equal to the set number receiving an additional new file from the source; and
- b. if the total number of files now in the buffer is equal to the set number, compressing a file; and
- 5 c. transmitting the compressed file.

10. A communication method comprising the steps of:

- a. setting an encoding length for a communication at eight bits;
- b. accepting a user input length for the encoding length;
- 10 c. determining whether the connection is wireless;
- d. if the connection is wireless, rejecting the user input length; and
- e. if the communication is not wireless, setting the encoding length equal to the user input length.

15 11. The communication method as described in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- a. setting an encoding length for a communication at eight bits;
- b. accepting a user input length for the encoding length;
- c. determining whether the connection is wireless;
- 20 d. if the connection is wireless, rejecting the user input length; and
- e. if the communication is not wireless, setting the encoding length equal to the user input length.